

# LYONS IS VICTOR; GETS MARBLE HILL

## Disputed Border Province Falls to the Bronx Conqueror in a Bloodless Anschluss

### MAYOR ACTS AS APPEASER

## His Message to Estimate Board Also Contemplates Ceding All of City Airport to Queens

Borough President James J. Lyons, staunch defender of his Bronx—the "Borough of Universities, low tax rate, comfortable dwellings, cultural influences"—achieved a notable victory yesterday.

Mayor La Guardia, in a message to members of the Board of Estimate, recommended that Marble Hill, a terra irredenta of fifty-two acres and a population of about 5,000, become part of the Bronx. And at the same time, the Mayor recommended that all of La Guardia Field become part of Queens.

"I therefore would suggest, if it meets with the approval of the board," the Mayor wrote, "that the matter be referred to the Corporation Counsel for preparation of the necessary legislative bills for submission either to the local legislature or to Albany, as the case may be."

### A Bloodless Anschluss

Thus did Bronx Fuehrer Lyons realize a bloodless anschluss after months of verbal barrages. It was on March 8 that Mr. Lyons first called for annexation of the Marble Hill section, on the ground that the Harlem Ship Canal was the natural geographical division between the two boroughs.

Borough President Stanley M. Isaacs of Manhattan was perfectly willing to release the territory if a plebiscite were conducted by "either the League of Nations or the Board of Estimate," but added that he doubted if any of the Marble Hill residents would want to leave Manhattan for the Bronx.

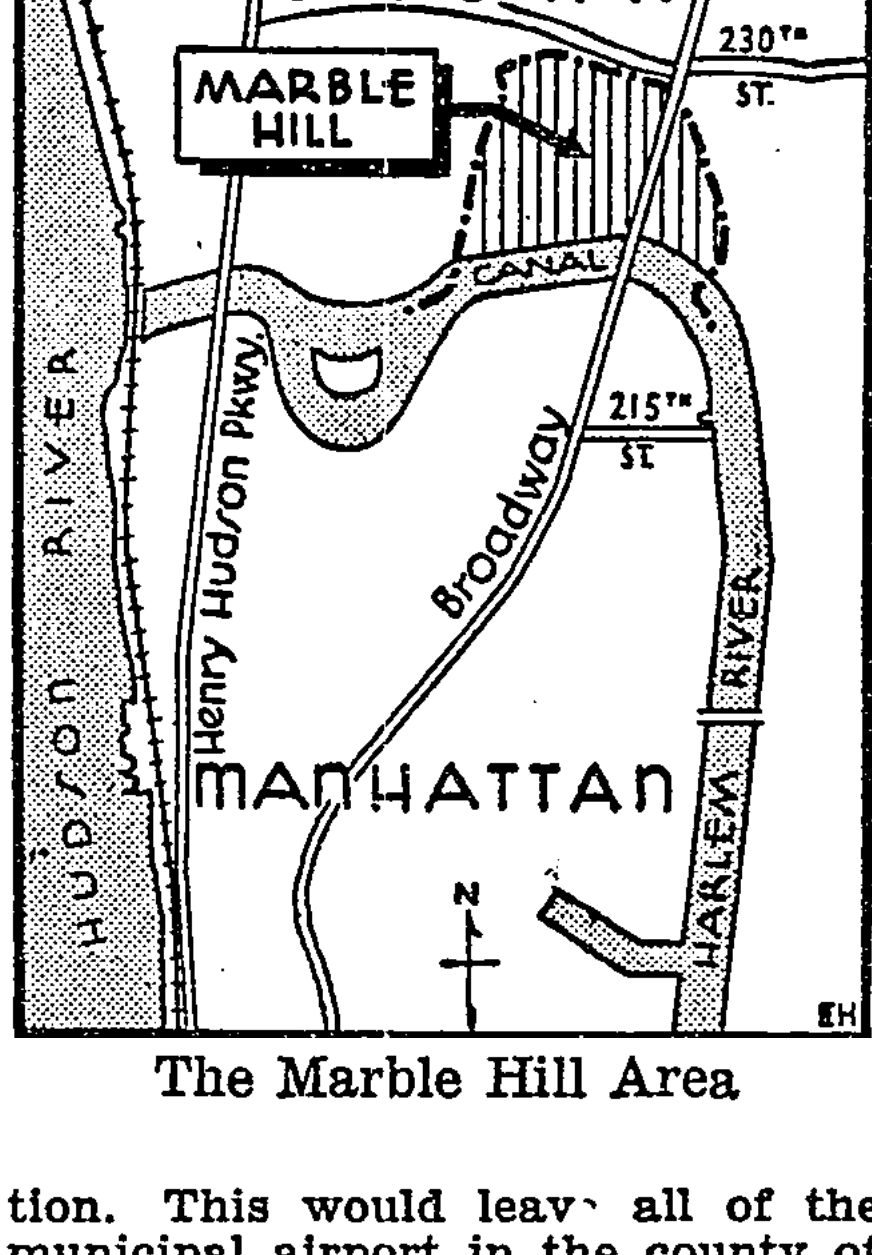
Mr. Lyons moved fast. On March 11 he planted the Bronx County flag atop a rocky promontory and claimed the territory for the "Borough of Universities." The residents made no secret of their disapproval; they organized to resist. Mr. Lyons retreated and bided his time. Months passed, and on Nov. 10 Mr. Lyons requested that the Mayor appoint a "boundary commission" to clarify the situation.

### The Mayor's Recommendation

Then followed the Mayor's letter to the board. His recommendation follows:

"Without at this time going into the history of the boundary line at the Marble Hill point and how the change was brought about, suffice it to say that the matter can be and should be promptly and easily adjusted. To that end I recommend that the Harlem River Ship Canal is and should be the logical boundary line. It is the line, with the exception at this point, between the county of the Bronx and the county of New York. Therefore, all of the land situated north of the canal should be transferred to the county of the Bronx, and the island west of Baker Field and east of Inwood Hill Park where the canal divides, forming that small crescent-shaped island, should go to the county of New York.

"As to the municipal airport located in the county of Queens, the matter there is very simple. The boundary line established by the administrative code and plotted on United States Government Coast and Geodetic survey map, should be extended north commencing at Steinway Creek and brought straight east up to the low water mark of Rikers Island, continued straight east to the point west of College Point, then proceeding as it is now in a northeasterly direc-



The Marble Hill Area

tion. This would leave all of the municipal airport in the county of Queens, and leave Rikers Island in the county of the Bronx."

It was after 5 P. M. when Mr. Lyons received word of his victory at his offices in the Bronx County Building. Being without his stenographers and secretaries, he sat down at his desk and penciled a statement in which he said:

"I consider the Mayor's recommendation splendid. All of La Guardia field should be in the same borough and county.

"I am very happy that the good people of Marble Hill will be given the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of our cultural borough, as well as to enjoy the lower tax rate of the Bronx. I feel that this peaceful acquisition of this disputed territory is a real victory for the Bronx. It would be wonderful if Europe could settle its boundary differences in the same peaceful manner."